

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 08212 151512Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 /020 W
----- 011512 /11

R 151145Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8997
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
DEA HEADQUARTERS WASHDC
US CUSTOMS WASHDC

UNCLAS BELGRADE 8212

VIENNA FOR DEA; PARIS FOR CUSTOMS; STATE, ATTN S/NM?
DEA, ATTN TRI; CUSTOMS, ATTN INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, YO
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS TRAINING FACILITIES

REF: A. STATE 284346 B. DEA 22584

1. SUMMARY: POLICE AND CUSTOMS ARE YUGOSLAV AGENCIES MOST CONCERNED WITH NARCOTICS CONTROL. BOTH INCLUDE NARCOTICS TRAINING IN BASIC COURSES FOR NEW OFFICIALS. NEITHER OFFERS ADVANCED FORMAL TRAINING FOR NARCOTICS INSTRUCTORS OR THOSE FEW OFFICIALS ASSIGNED FULL TIME TO NARCOTICS WORK. NARCOTICS INSTRUCTORS ARE GENERALLY OUTSIDE EXPERTS WHO TEACH PART TIME, SUCH AS MEDICAL DOCTORS OR INVESTIGATORS WITH NARCOTICS BACKGROUND. THEY PROBABLY NUMBER NO MORE THAN THIRTY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. OFFERING TRADING MATERIALS THROUGH A CATALOG WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO IMPROVE YUGOSLAV TRAINING CAPABILITIES. PARAGRAPHS BELOW DESCRIBE IN GREATER DETAIL SEPARATE CUSTOMS AND POLICE TRAINING PROGRAMS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS POSED BY REFTEL A.
END SUMMARY.

2. CUSTOMS-- ALL NEW INSPECTORS ARE TRAINED AT A CENTER IN THE CUSTOMS BUILDING IN BELGRADE. PART OF THEIR BASIC COURSE COVERS NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT, INCLUDING THE
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IDENTIFICATION OF NARCOTICS, CONCEALMENT TECHNIQUES, SMUGGLING CHANNELS, AND SOURCES OF ILLEGAL DRUGS. IN

ADDITION TO THIS BASIC TRAINING, A TRAVELING TEAM OCCASIONALLY VISITS CUSTOMS POSTS IN THE FIELD TO PROVIDE SHORT-TERM SPECIALIZED TRAINING IN NARCOTICS. EIGHTY PERCENT OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS HAVE NOW RECEIVED SOME NARCOTICS INSTRUCTION. NARCOTICS TRAINING IS DONE PART TIME BY SMUGGLING SPECIALIST VIDO POPADIC (WHO HAS VISITED THE U.S. UNDER THE CCINC PROGRAM) AND LABORATORY EXPERT BEBA AVROMOVIC. NO CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WORK FULL TIME ON NARCOTICS CONTROL TO OUR KNOWLEDGE.

3. POLICE-- TRAINING FOR NEW OFFICERS IS CONDUCTED AT POLICE ACADEMIES OPERATED BY THE EIGHT REPUBLICS AND PROVINCES (MONTENEGRO, HOWEVER, HAS NONE). TRAINING IN NARCOTICS SIMILAR TO THAT OFFERED TO NEW CUSTOMS INSPECTORS IS INCLUDED. PRACTICE MAY VARY DEPENDING ON THE REPUBLIC, BUT FEDERAL NARCOTICS OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE INSTRUCTORS ARE EXPERTS, SUCH AS DOCTORS OR POLICE OFFICERS WHO SPECIALIZE IN NARCOTICS WORK. IN ADDITION TO THIS BASIC NARCOTICS TRAINING, AN OFFICER ASSIGNED FULL TIME TO NARCOTICS DUTIES WOULD UNDERGO A PERIOD OF INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS AND READING IN PREPARATION. THERE ARE NO ADVANCED COURSES ON NARCOTICS, BUT REPUBLICAN POLICE OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR NARCOTICS MEET TOGETHER FROM TIME TO TIME TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES. FEDERAL OFFICIALS SAID

THAT THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN YUGOSLAVIA IS CONCENTRATED IN THE LARGER CITIES AND THAT POLICE IN LESS-DEVELOPED AREAS RARELY ENCOUNTER VIOLATIONS. EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT NO MORE THAN FIFTEEN POLICE OFFICERS WORK FULL TIME ON NARCOTICS THROUGHOUT YUGOSLAVIA.

4. TRAINING ASSISTANCE-- IN THE PAST THREE YEARS USG HAS SPONSORED TWO IN-COUNTRY SEMINARS FOR CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. NARCOTICS TRAINING HAS BEEN OFFERED TO POLICE THIS YEAR (REFTEL B), BUT THEY HAVE AS YET REACHED NO DECISION ABOUT WHETHER TO ACCEPT. WHILE UN REPORTS ON NARCOTICS ARE CIRCULATED TO ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO NARCOTICS TRAINING PROVIDED TO YUGOSLAVS OTHER THAN BY U.S. GOVERNMENT.

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5. ASSESSMENT-- ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS OF TRAINING IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE. CUSTOMS SEIZURES OF DRUGS (MOSTLY HASHISH) HAVE BEEN MARKEDLY UP THIS YEAR-- 1976 KGS IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS COMPARED TO 2136 KGS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS. THE RELATION OF THIS DEVELOPMENT TO TRAINING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE. 1974 CUSTOMS TRAINING WAS JUDGED BY YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS TO BE OF LITTLE HELP BECAUSE IT COVERED GROUND WITH WHICH THEY WERE ALREADY FAMILIAR.

6. ACCEPTABILITY-- BOTH POLICE AND CUSTOMS HAVE IN OPERATION SMALL-SCALE TRAINING PROGRAMS WHICH THEY CONSIDER ADEQUATE FOR THEIR NEEDS. BOTH ARE ANXIOUS TO BENEFIT FROM U.S. EXPERIENCE IN NARCOTICS CONTROL. ASSISTANCE IN IMPROVING TTRAINING PROGRAMS WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE, DEPENDING ON THE CONCRETE NATURE OF THE ASSISTANCE OFFERED. AN ELABORATE USG PROPOSAL TO EXPAND TRAINING WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE, NO WOULD ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE PRESENT PROGRAM IS NOT SELF-SUFFICIENT. IN VIEW OF THEIR PREOCCUPATION WITH ESPIONAGE, THE YUGOSLAV POLICE MIGHT BE UNWILLING TO ALLOW AN AMERICAN TEAM TO VISIT THEIR POLICE ACADEMIES TO EVALUATE NARCOTICS TRAINING.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS-- PROVIDING TRAINING MATERIALS SUCH AS FILMS AND PUBLICATIONS, IN SERBGBACROATIAN IF POSSIBLE, WOULD BE THE MOSTIHFFICIENT WAY TO ASSIST YUGOSLAV TRAINING EFFORTS. A CATALOG OF AVAILABLE TRAINING MATERIALS MIGHT BE PREPARED FROM WHICH THE YUGOSLAVS COULD ORDER. THE EXPENSE OF INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT TRAINING IN THE U.S. WOULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF FULL TIME NARCOTICS INSTRUCTORS. SHORT IN-COUNTRY COURSES AIMED AT THE EXPERIENCED PART TIME INSTRUCTORS ANETFTMUSING ON TEACHING TECHNIQUES AND ADVANCED ASPECTS OF NARCOTICS CONTROL WOULD BE APPROPRIATE EVERY 4-5 YEARS.

8. REGIONAL TRAINING-- IN VIEW OF POLITICAL DIFFERENCES DIVIDING THE COUNTRIES OF THE BALKANS AND THE RELATIVELY LOW PRIORITY PLACED ON NARCOTICS CONTROL, IT IS DOUBTFUL
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THAT YUGOSLAVIA WOULD BE WILLING TO SPONSOR TRAINING FOR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELGRA08212
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760462-0728
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761238/aaaabgwu.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 284346
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS TRAINING FACILITIES
TAGS: SNAR, YO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006